PLATE XXVIII

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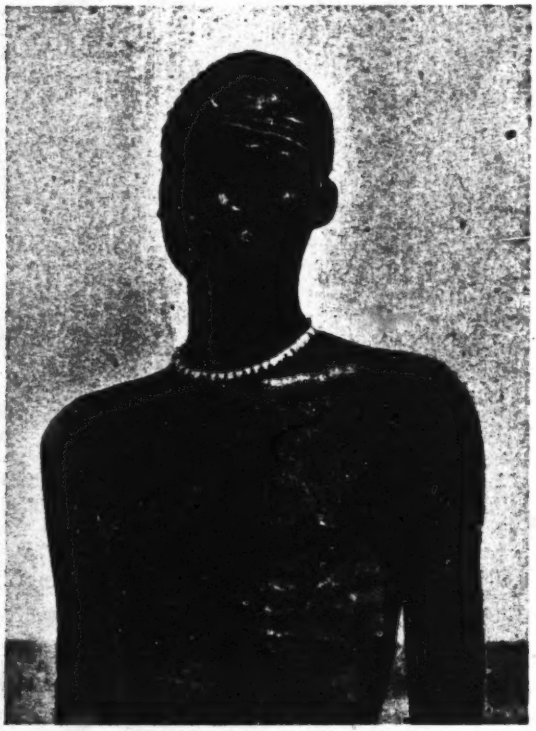


a. Youth (Zeraf river)

516

302

b. Youth (Lou)

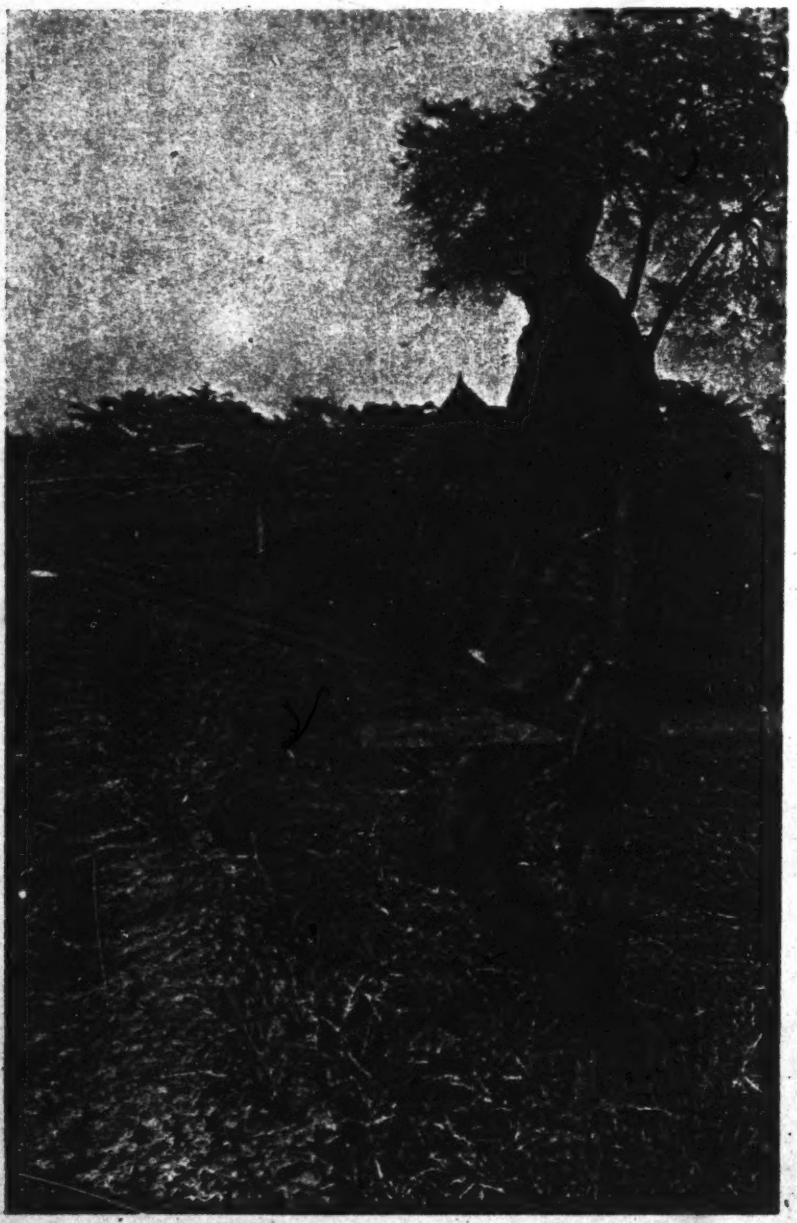
c. Man (Zeraf river)

[Face p. 256]

: Evans-Pritchard E-5 (1931, 1936) 1940
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

PLATE XXIX

291
516



Man (Nasser Post)
[Face p. 262]

14: Huffman M-5 (no date) 1931
FJ22 Nuer FJ22

such as water-jars on her head. This accounts to some extent for the straight, erect bearing of the women and girls. She may have a number of iron anklets—possibly from one to six—on each ankle, the weight of which causes her to throw her feet outward when walking so that the anklets of one leg do not hit the other leg, but her general posture is graceful.

Grass skirts are made by taking the outer bark of a certain tall grass and tearing it into long thin strips. These are then rolled tightly and made into grass skirts by a method of weaving and binding at one side, leaving the other ends loose. Grass skirts are made in two sizes, one—the short one—being from six to ten inches long. The short grass skirt may also be worn as a garment by a married woman, for every married woman must wear a loin-cloth of some description. The long grass skirt reaches from hip to ankle, and is worn as a dance dress. It is made in the same manner as the short skirt, but the longer grass is used for its construction.

The short grass skirt (Fig. 4) is usually worn over the long grass skirt at dances. Sometimes a bead is fastened on the end of each strand of grass in the short grass skirt. Both long and short grass skirts are oiled until they are soft and pliable and a dark brown in appearance. When worn at a dance, short bushy stubs of cowtails are worn around the waist at the back over the grass skirts.

The Nuer girl may or may not wear a cloth, just as it suits her. If she does wear one, it is worn under one arm and knotted over the opposite shoulder. Those living near the Arab settlements may dress somewhat as the Arab women do, or they may wear the dresses the Arab merchants make for sale to them. But no matter how many garments she may possess, the Nuer girl—if unmarried—may discard any or all of them at will.

7:Tucker E-5 (1929-1933) 1933 FJ23 Shilluk FJ23
Nuer FJ22

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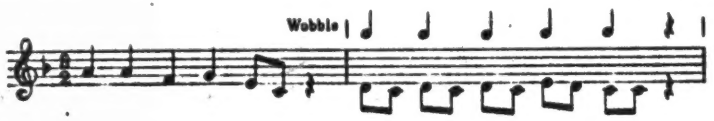
Third movement: The boys all chant together "Open and shut, Open and shut!". At the word "Open," all the toes are bent backwards, at the word "Shut" they are all bent forwards, so that the centre square of toes looks like some great black sea-anemone opening and shutting itself.

Fourth movement: Keeping their feet and toes still, the boys wobble their knees rapidly up and down. I was unable to get the words of this song, but the tune is as follows:—

These movements can come in any order, according to the will of the song-leader.

N
524
516

7. Nuer girls are fond of ring games, but there is little action in those that I have seen. The girls kneel in a ring; one girl sings a song of about three lines, and the rest repeat it, slapping their knees. Then the girl next to her takes up the song, extemporizing upon the same theme with a view to scoring a "hit" off one of those present. If she succeeds, she is greeted with yells of approval, and all join lustily in the chorus, while the third girl cudgels her brains for the inspiration necessary to cap this verse if possible. These witticisms usually lie round the names of friends or bear some obscure reference to well-known incidents, with the result that an investigator without intimate knowledge of the children's daily affairs finds the songs unintelligible. This is one of the verses:

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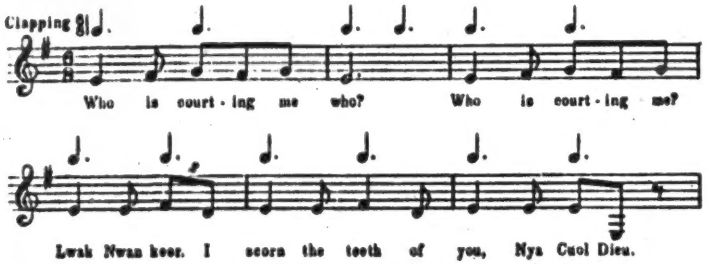
In the following song the voice rhythm (indicated V) differs markedly from the clapping rhythm (indicated ↓):